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The twelve pages of generalized description of the *Arabian Nights* might well have been compressed and the space used to show more definitely wherein the Galland version of this familiar work, as well as the contemporary English and French versions of the "Persian" and "Turkish" Tales were genuinely Oriental in flavor and wherein they were like other French and English writing of their day. In the later chapters the attempted differentiation of the larger body of pseudo-Oriental writings into "Moralistic," "Philosophic," and "Satiric" Groups,—scarcely borne out by the facts,—tends to obscure the more important fact, that the Oriental Tale, so-called, was cultivated by English and French writers of the century chiefly as offering a convenient frame for expository comment on life.

Throughout the book, moreover, one wishes that Miss Conant had been more precise in marking the differences in the treatment of Oriental matter shown by the successive periods of that rapidly changing century. That would serve to show, more satisfactorily, for instance, the relation of the Oriental Tale to what is called Romanticism. Miss Conant tells us that the popularity of the Oriental element with the reading public, alike in translations of genuine works of the East, and in Western imitations, was a phase of the growing Romantic craving, which was fed by the action and the color of the Oriental genre. But this idea, though stated in the Preface and the Introduction, is developed only in the last few pages of the book, and then so vaguely as to seem almost an afterthought. The book has ample justification without it, but if presented it should be supported by fuller evidence.

In a study of this sort the bibliographical list of specimens of the form under discussion should be as nearly complete as possible. Miss Conant, in Appendix B. 1, mentions altogether some 154 titles for the 113 years from 1687 to 1800, to which should be added eight others listed in Appendix B. 2. But 49 of the 154 are titles of papers in the *Spectator* and similar periodicals, and ten others seem to be verse. This list might have been much fuller. Arber's reprint of the *London Term Catalogues* for 1687-1709, together with the monthly lists of "Books Published" in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1731-1775,—to go no

further,—give the titles of some 56 books not mentioned in this "Chronological List," most of them novels with Oriental setting or political and social satire in Oriental terms. A few cases may be noted. Miss Conant lists, for example, one novel in the set of *Modern Novels* (Bentley, 1692?), in the British Museum, but that set contains five other novels with Oriental setting, all of them published after 1687. Miss Conant's statement (p. 269), that the date of the first edition of the *Arabian Nights* is "unknown," should be supplemented by the statement that the "Seventh Volume" of an English version of the work is listed in the *Term Catalogue* for Easter, 1708. There is no mention in the "Chronological List" of the *History of King Apprius* (1728), a translation from Godart de Beauchamps, though it is at least as important a novel as Mrs. Haywood's *History of Eoraii, etc.*, the first edition of which, it should be said, appeared in 1736, not 1741. There is no mention of so well-known a work as the English translation of Prévost's *Histoire d'Une Grecque Moderne*, which appeared in 1741-42, nor of the first English translation of Crébillon's *Le Sopha*, in 1742, nor of *Usong, an Eastern Narrative* (1773), a story in Hawkesworth's manner, translated from the German of Baron Haller. Miss Conant's list, the fullest hitherto printed, and a welcome aid to students of Eighteenth Century literature, would be still more useful if it could be made complete.

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A CONCORDANCE TO GRAY.

A Concordance to the English Poems of Thomas Gray. Edited by ALBERT S. COOK, President of the Concordance Society. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. The Riverside Press, Cambridge, 1908. 8vo, pp. xi, 160. Price, \$3.00 net.

The first fruits of the Concordance Society, organized in 1906 (see *Modern Language Notes* for February, 1907), are now before us in the form of a handsome volume devoted to a poet who is

altogether worthy of the labor. The choice, says the editor, "was dictated by these considerations: his historical importance; the public interest in him; and the moderate compass of his works." It may well be added that Gray was a fastidious and severe critic, scarcely less of his own poems than of the works of others; his choice of words, therefore, is a matter of significance out of all proportion to the small bulk of his poetry, and in consequence a lexicon or concordance of his poems is one of the most imperative needs of students of eighteenth century literature.

The text used by the compilers is that of Gosse, published in 1884. Why this edition was used instead of the revised Gosse of 1902 or the generally excellent Aldine edition of Bradshaw, 1891, is not evident; a statement of the reasons in the Preface would have been welcome. The use of either of these, for example, would have added one more line containing *nor* (Hymn to Adversity 36) to the list; Gosse's first edition like most others, has the misprint *not*.¹

The question of normalization, remarks the editor, was a difficult one. The practice adopted, on the whole, will probably meet with general approval, at least in America; and we hope that British readers may in time come to view it with resignation. Thus the *-our* forms have been brought together under head-words in *-or*; *risèing* is entered under *rising*; *redning* under *reddening*; *tor't ring* under *torturing*; *murther* under *murder*; *fav'rite* and *favourite* under *favorite*. We do not, however, approve of the head-form *rime*, which we believe is purely a scholar's form, not yet generally adopted. For this purpose *rhyme* would have been preferable.

Following the precedent of Strong's *Concordance to the Bible*, the compilers have omitted forty-seven of the commonest words. These are

¹The use of Tovey's scholarly edition (Cambridge, University Press, 1898, reprinted 1904) would have made possible a fuller treatment of the variants of the Fraser MS. (called by Bradshaw the Original and by Gosse the Mason MS.) of the *Elegy*, some of which Gosse omits (e. g., 11 *stray too*, 12 *pry into*). It should be noted, too, that none of the variants of *The Alliance of Education and Government* (some of which Tovey adopts in his text) is included in the Concordance. One cannot help wishing, therefore, that some of the compilers had been more familiar with the textual criticism of Gray.

for the most part entirely proper omissions, made in the interest of economy. It may be questioned, however, if the number of words omitted should exceed this, and we incline to think that of these *as* and *shall* should not be omitted.

The compilers of this volume were Professor Cook, Dr. Elbert N. S. Thompson, and Messrs. Frederic T. Blanchard and Alfred A. May, of Yale; Dr. Charles G. Osgood, of Princeton; and Miss Ernestine L. Miller, of Wellsboro, Pennsylvania. They, as well as the readers of the proofs, deserve to be heartily congratulated on accomplishing the task with such accuracy. So far as we have tested the book, it is free from errors.

The Concordance Society has undertaken a useful work. It should have the hearty support of all who love poetry and who do not abhor exact and thorough studies, such as a concordance makes possible.

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FRENCH GRAMMAR.

A French Grammar with Exercises and Supplementary Reading for Schools and Colleges. By HUGO P. THIEME and JOHN R. EFFINGER, of the University of Michigan. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1908. 12mo., viii, 411 pp.

Of the making of grammars there is no end, to paraphrase a familiar saying, and the latest candidate for the attention of teachers is the one, of which the first impression was sent out by the Macmillan Company in July of the present year.¹ Altho there are many French grammars already on the market, new ones will always be welcome, provided they offer suitable preparation for the study of French in college and for later study. Such is the case with the one in question. An examination of the book shows that the authors have not attempted to produce a novelty in the subject, nor to be radical in its treatment, but that they desire to present a manual that will enable the beginner to acquire as soon as possible, and in an interesting manner, an accurate knowledge of

¹This review was written in October, 1908.